

UF/IFAS Research
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July 17, 2018

TO: UF/IFAS Faculty
FROM: Jackie K. Burns
SUBJECT: UF/IFAS Travel Awards for Research Grant Enhancement (TARGET) Program

Our colleagues at the IFAS Research Forum pointed out that faculty visits to federal agencies in Washington, DC can reap significant benefits. Visits can increase faculty participation on review panels, improve awareness of calls for funding, and enhance networking with agency staff. These factors can boost faculty success in securing grant funding, and elevate their research programs and visibility.

A new program called "Travel Awards for Research Grant Enhancement" (TARGET) will pay for airfare, hotel, meals and incidentals (up to \$3000 per faculty member) for travel completed by June 2019 to:

- Support 6-10 teams of ~5 faculty per team to spend a few days in DC, interacting with one or more major funding agencies. If desired, we will assist in developing itineraries with federal agency liaisons and/or program officers.
- Team leads are senior faculty (associate or higher) identified within each team, who lead on submitting the team's TARGET proposal. Faculty may lead on only one (1) proposal, but may participate in more than one team as a member.
- Team themes are flexible and can be defined broadly – they may be programmatic (e.g., water, invasive species, plant breeding) or institutional (e.g., members of a particular unit or REC).
- All team members will be responsible for their own travel logistics, and in DC they will
 - » Engage in all scheduled group activities,
 - » Share their biosketch with agency staff, and
 - » Volunteer to provide ad hoc proposal reviews and serve on agency grant panels

How to apply: We ask team leads to submit proposals [here](#). TARGET proposals must be submitted through the website and are due on **September 4, 2018**. The information requested includes:

- » Faculty information (names, units, emails)
- » Total budget request
- » Summary of the team theme, including timeframe, details of the planned agency visit(s) and expected outcomes (max. 1000 words)

Upon submission, team leads will receive an immediate email confirmation. If you have any other questions, please contact John Davis, Associate Dean for Research, at jmdavis@ufl.edu. For technical issues concerning the website contact Brian Gray at seven7@ufl.edu.

Proposals will be evaluated to determine:

- » Persuasiveness of the team theme,
- » Alignment of the chosen theme with team lead and team member expertise, and
- » Potential outcomes and impacts to faculty research programs

A report (max. 1 page) is expected no more than 30 days after travel, describing programs initiated or strengthened, agency linkages established including those programs targeted for future funding, and next steps. The report should be submitted through the same site used for proposal submission.

We look forward to your ideas!

Jackie